

passed away suddenly on October 12, 2000, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Schnell's life embodied the tenets of citizenship that I have discussed above. After a thirty-six year career in the pharmaceutical industry, he chose to dedicate his retirement years to serving his community. A gifted musician, avid golfer and talented woodworker, Dr. Schnell nonetheless committed countless hours to improving the lives of the people in his community. He worked hard to establish the Kankakee Valley Youth Orchestra and his vision was finally realized this summer. He also served on his church board of trustees and taught English as a second language to new immigrants.

President Richard Nixon said, "We must always remember that America is a great nation today not because of what government did for people but because of what people did for themselves and for one another." President Nixon's words embody the spirit of individual service and honor the extraordinary contributions of ordinary citizens like Dr. Lorne A. Schnell.

Liberty, justice, freedom and opportunity. These are not just idle words, they are the fundamental principles that make our Republic unique. Embrace these ideals and honor our forefathers by participating in the governance of your town, county, state and country. Volunteer your time and serve your community. Stand and proudly salute as your nation's flag passes by and instill in your children what it means to be an American citizen.

Citizenship is one of our nation's greatest strengths; it gives our nation's democracy vitality and longevity. As we face the uncertainties and challenges of the third millennium, the strength and character of the American citizenry provides us with the foundation to move forward as a nation. President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Whatever you are, be a good one." Heed President Lincoln's words by committing yourself to being an active participant in the well-being of your family and your community. Your dedicated service will help ensure the continuing prosperity of our great nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN CHARLES CANADY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a mixture of sadness and enthusiasm that I bid farewell to a friend and colleague, CHARLES CANADY as he prepares to voluntarily end his service in the United States Congress.

I am sad because I have known CHARLES since our days in the Florida state legislature but am excited for him as he embarks on a new journey.

I have had the distinct pleasure of not only serving with Congressman CANADY here in the House, but also in the Florida legislature where during his first term he was honored as the Most Effective First Term Legislator.

I believe that designation has stayed with him throughout his tenure in the House where he has served his district, the state of Florida, and indeed the nation by working hard on behalf of Florida's agricultural industry, on legis-

lation for lobbying disclosure reform and strengthening our criminal justice system.

The 1998 Almanac of American Politics summed it up when they said that "CANADY is hard-working and . . . strong in his convictions . . ."

I am certain his leadership will be missed by the constituents of Florida's 12th Congressional district. For myself, I can certainly say that his friendship and accomplishments in the House will be sorely missed and I know that he will continue to succeed in his role as Florida Governor Jeb Bush's General Counsel.

I am proud to have known and worked with Representative CANADY and I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute and saying good-bye to this dear friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE RESEARCH OF MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURES AND THE MOROCCAN 45TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures, A.R.M.E.C., on its fifth anniversary, and to recognize the 45th Moroccan Independence Day. A.R.M.E.C. promotes cultural, social, educational, and religious activities in order to facilitate the participation of the Middle Eastern community in American life.

A.R.M.E.C. strives to promote interaction between individuals of various cultural and religious backgrounds in order to create an environment of mutual respect and understanding. For the past three years, they have honored and commended various Artists of the Year in order to further appreciate and bring recognition to the rich cultural heritage of the Middle East.

A.R.M.E.C.'s mission is to help facilitate a harmonious multicultural society. They sponsor various cultural and sporting events including conferences, musical performances, and traditional celebrations. In 1996, A.R.M.E.C. co-sponsored a family conference in Washington, D.C. with the theme: True Family Values for American Moslem Families. One hundred and fifty participants attended this conference to discuss how to improve the quality of families throughout the world.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, A.R.M.E.C. is involved in many humanitarian and social activities. After the death of King Hassan II of Morocco, A.R.M.E.C. made available for signing a condolence book addressed to his son and successor, King Mohammed VI. Following this year's devastating earthquake in Turkey, A.R.M.E.C. sent an appeal to its members to express their solidarity and generosity toward the people of Turkey.

The Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures hopes to continue its efforts in familiarizing members with United States history, religious traditions, culture and laws, in order to facilitate integration into American society. Future projects include new immigrants support and assistance services, English and Arabic language classes, Middle East music

and dance classes, and marriage and family counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures and ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing the great contributions of A.R.M.E.C. and the Moroccan 45th Independence Day.

URGING THE SENATE TO CONTINUE TO BLOCK THE APPOINTMENT OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LAOS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I am troubled by the fact that the State Department has made almost no progress with regard to the disappearance of two Hmong Americans who went missing in Laos more than a year ago. Mr. Michael Vang, a constituent of mine from Fresno, CA, and Mr. Housa Ly, a constituent of Representative MARK GREEN from Appleton, WI, are believed to have been seized by the Pathet Lao along the border of Thailand and Laos. Our constituents have not been seen or heard from since.

I believe the U.S. Congress needs to get tougher with the military dictatorship in Laos and the bureaucrats at the State Department who are content to work gently and cooperatively with the same Lao officials who are likely responsible for the abduction of our constituents. The regime in Laos continues to brutalize and murder its own people, particularly the Lao and Hmong people—many of which have relatives in my Congressional district.

Congressmen Vento, GREEN and I helped to send a strong message to the State Department and to the Laos government last year with the passage of H. Res. 169, which was the first legislation to pass the House of Representatives specific to Laos—and it passed 412 to 20. Among other things it urged the Lao Government to return Mr. Ly and Mr. Vang, or their remains, to United States authorities and their families in America at once; it warned the Lao Government of the serious consequences, including sanctions, of acts of aggression against United States citizens; and finally it urged the Department of State and other appropriate United States agencies to share the maximum amount of information regarding the disappearance of Messrs. Ly and Vang. None of these things have come to pass.

So today I want to thank my colleague, Senator BOB SMITH from New Hampshire, for his efforts to place an ongoing hold on the appointment of a U.S. Ambassador to Laos until a fundamental overhaul of U.S. policy is made toward Laos, and until changes are made with regard to the way the State Department is handling the case of Mr. Michael Vang and Houa Ly.

There are others I would like to thank for their efforts to help us resolve this case. Ms. Susie Vang, the wife of Michael Vang, has repeatedly traveled from Fresno, California to provide crucial testimony at several important events highlighting this case in the 106th Congress. Chairman BEN GILMAN, Congressman MARK GREEN, Congressman Bruce Vento, Congressman RON KIND, Congressman WALLY